



# JEWELMASTER

## PRINCESS OF GEMWORLD

95¢

3

MAR. 85

APPROVED  
BY THE  
COMICS  
CODE



IN THE HEAT OF BATTLE...  
**FIRE JADE!**



Paris  
& Romeo



OUT IN THE GENYWORLD'S WESTERN SEA LIES THE CHAIN OF ISLANDS KNOWN AS THE AQUAMARINE ARCHIPELAGO...

AND TO THE LARGEST OF THESE VOLCANO-FORMED LAND MASSES FLIES THE DESCENDANT OF A LINE OF WARLORDS--

--WHOSE CENTURIES OF ABSOLUTE RULE HAVE GONE UNCHALLENGED...

...UNTIL TONIGHT!

BY THE CELESTIAL ORB!

WHAT MADNESS HAS TRANSPIRED IN MY ABSENCE!?

THOSE MEN-- ALL MEMBERS OF MY ROYAL GUARD--

--LIE DEAD UPON THE PALACE GROUNDS! BUT WHERE--?

YOUR ENEMY IS ON THE THRESHOLD OF VICTORY, LORD AQUAMARINE-- AND WE WILL BAR YOU FROM THE SEAT OF POWER WITH OUR LIVES!

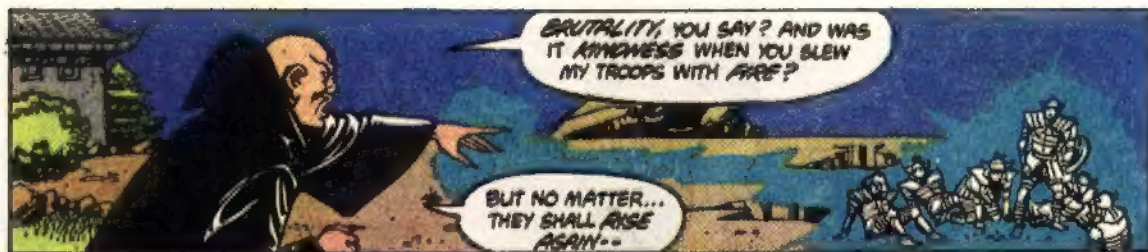
YOUR POSTURING MUST SCARE THE FISHES, REBEL-- IF I MAKE YOUR TRUE VOCATION RIGHT--

-- BUT NOW YOU FACE THE MASTER OF THIS REALM!

YOUR MASTERY'S IN DOUBT NOW, DESPOT--

--AND YOUR BRUTAL REIGN IS AT AN END!





BRUTALITY, YOU SAY? AND WAS IT ANYWHERE WHEN YOU BLEW MY TROOPS WITH FIRE?

BUT NO MATTER... THEY SHALL RISE AGAIN--



--TO PAY BACK THEIR DEATHS AND VINDICATE MY RULE!

GREAT GODS!

THE--THE FIRE WAS TO HOLD THEM AT BAY... NEVER TO KILL!



PRAY! YOU HAVEN'T THE STOMACH FOR THIS, FISHERMAN!

YOU WOULD DENY A SKIRMISH WON BECAUSE ITS AFTERMATH REBELLS YOU!

I WILL NOT HONOR YOU BY TAKING SWORD IN HAND TO END YOUR WORTHLESS LIFE!



THE MAGIC THAT INSTILLS MY BLADE PROTECTS ME FROM HIS MISTIC BLAST..

... BUT IS HE RIGHT? DO I LACK THE WILL TO BEAT HIM?



AND YET--OLD YOUNG PUT HIS FAITH IN ME... AND FIRE JADE HERE!



TODAY THESE ARMS SLEW A BEAST WHOSE MON-STRIOUS EVIL ALMOST MATCHED YOUR OWN, LORD AQUAMARINE X..

...AND THEY HAVE NOT FARED-- NOR WILL THEY FALTER--

\*LAST ISSUE--KB.



--UNTIL THEY HAVE SLAIN YOU!

YEEARGH!



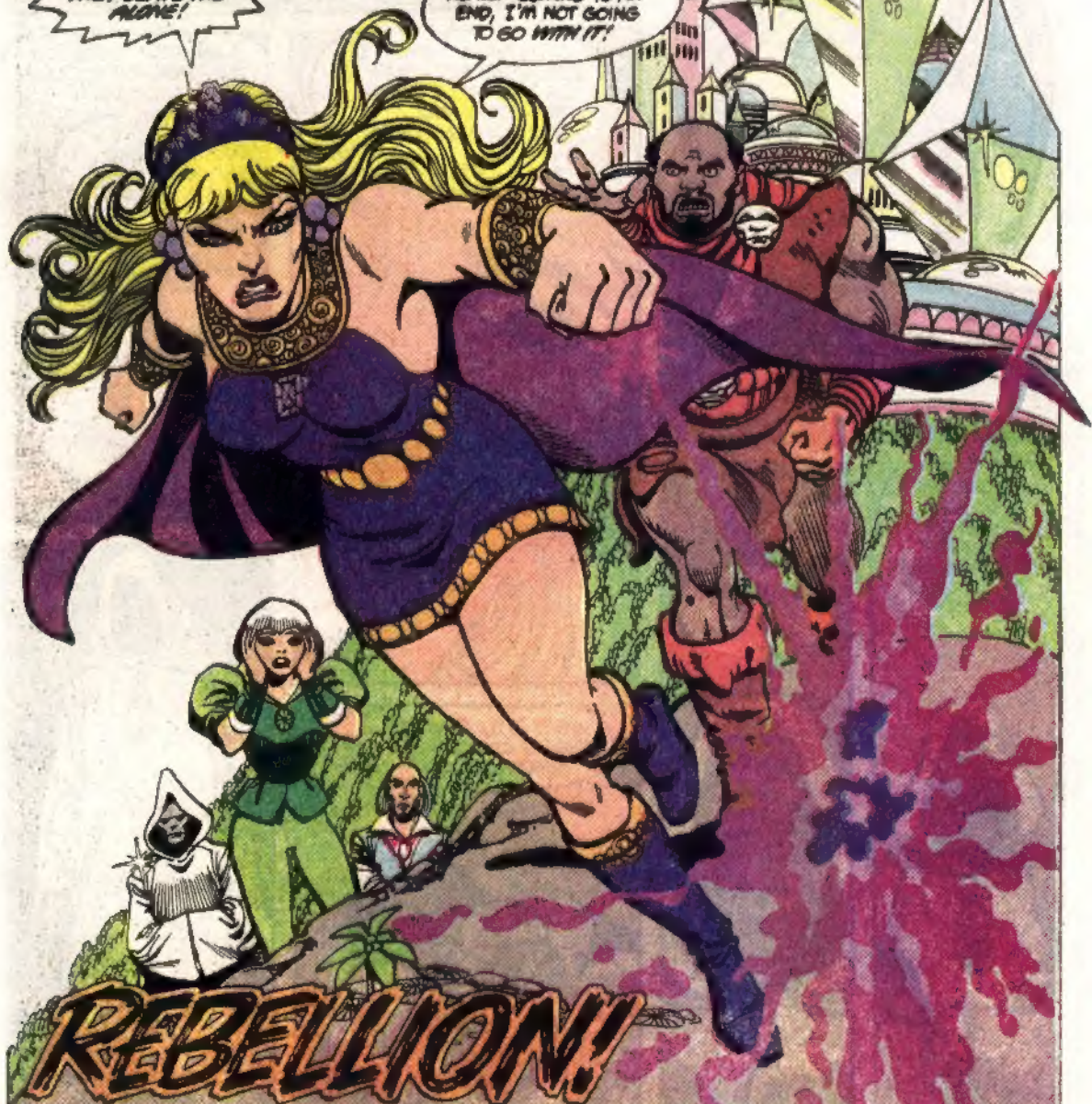
SUDDENLY, THERE IS MAGIC-- AND A CHILD'S DREAMS BECOME REALITY! FOR ON A WORLD OF FANTASY AMY WINSTON LEADS ANOTHER LIFE-- THE LIFE OF...

# AMETHYS

PRINCESS  
OF GEMWORLD

NO! LET GO OF  
ME! LEAVE ME  
ALONE!

IF THE GEMWORLD'S  
REALLY COMING TO AN  
END, I'M NOT GOING  
TO GO WITH IT!



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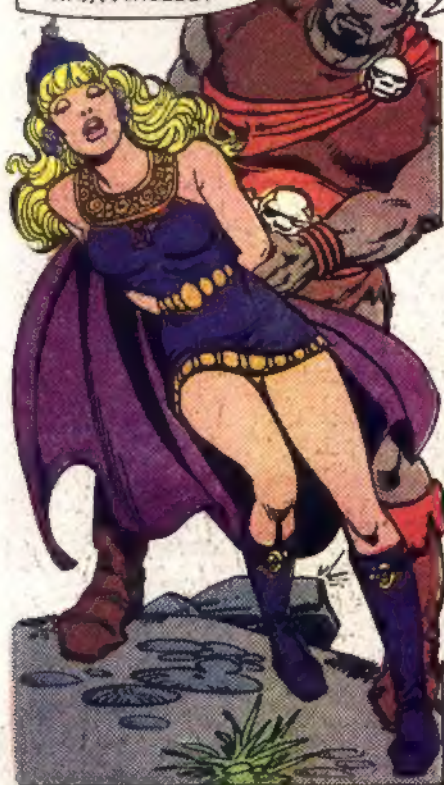


AND I CANNOT ALLOW  
YOU TO GO ON THIS  
WAY, PRINCESS!

YOU MUST NOT  
ATTEMPT TO CROSS  
TO EARTH!

HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN  
THE DANGERS THAT LIE  
BETWEEN THE WORLDS,  
AMETHYST...

...THE BARRIERS  
THAT KEEP MY SISTER  
TRAPPED ON EARTH?



OF COURSE I HAVEN'T,  
EMERALD! BUT SOMEHOW  
OR ANOTHER, I GOT TO  
THE GEMWORLD...  
WITHOUT EVEN TRYING!

I WANTED TO SEE YOU  
ALL AGAIN, BUT NOT LIKE  
THIS! I...

...I ONLY  
WANT TO GO  
HOME!



AMETHYST,  
DO NOT  
DESPAIR!  
WHAT FIRST  
SEEMS BLEAK  
AS MIDNIGHT  
MAY YET--

--EH?

DEMONS  
OF THE  
DARK--!



WHAT IS IT, PRIEST?  
WHENCE COMES THIS  
SUDDEN GLOOM?



MY LORDS  
AND PRINCESSES--  
I CAN BUT TELL  
YOU WHAT I READ  
UPON THE MYSTIC  
PLANE OF  
KNOWLEDGE...





...THAT LORD  
AQUAMARINE  
IS DEAD!

HE WHO ONCE DID  
SAVE MY LIFE... DEAD!!

HOW CAME IT, PRIEST...  
IN BATTLE? IF SO, THEN  
WE WILL GO TO SAVE  
THE ONES WHO MURDERED  
HIM AND--



NO



HUH? BUT GARNET...  
AQUAMARINE WAS OUR ALLY  
AGAINST DARK ORAL! WE  
OWE--

WE OWE HIM  
NOTHING!

WHATEVER FATE  
THE SEA LORD MET HE  
LIKELY DID DESERVE!

HE WAS A  
VILE AND SELF-  
SERVING AND  
AMBITIOUS  
MAN!

AND THAT  
AMBITION TOOK  
THE LIVES OF  
MANY AROUND  
HIM...

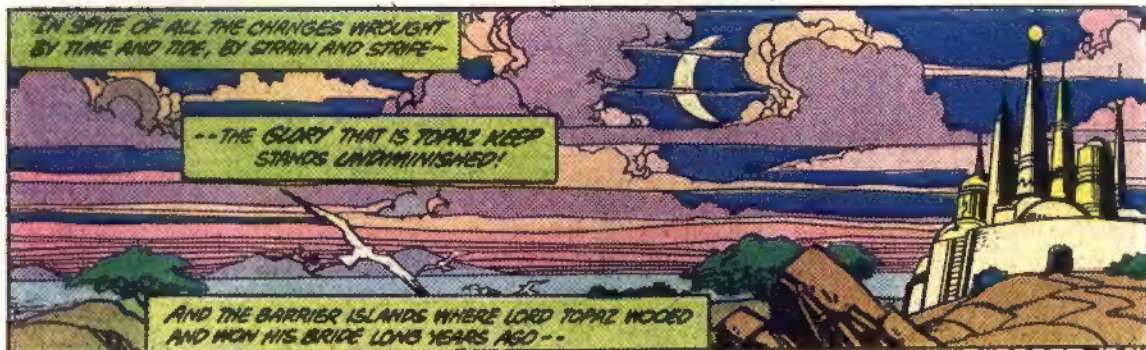
...INCLUDING  
MY ONLY SON!

I--I DIDN'T  
KNOW...

IT DOES NOT CHANGE THE  
FACT, MY LORD, THAT  
AQUAMARINE WAS ONE  
OF US...

...AND HE WILL BE  
AVENGED WITH OR  
WITHOUT YOUR  
HELP!

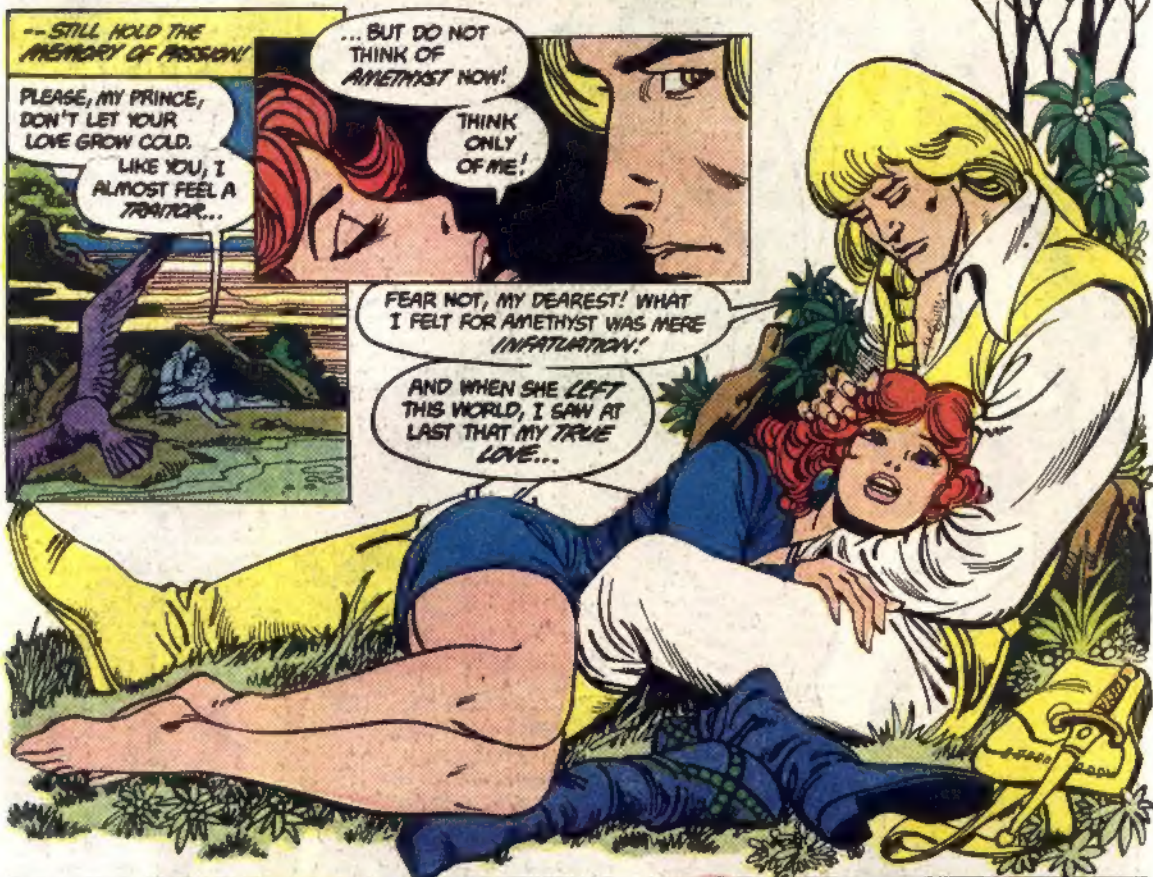




IN SPITE OF ALL THE CHANGES WROUGHT  
BY TIME AND TIDE, BY STRAIN AND STRIFE--

--THE GLORY THAT IS TOPAZ KEEP  
STANDS UNDIMINISHED!

AND THE BARRIER ISLANDS WHERE LORD TOPAZ WOODED  
AND WON HIS BRIDE LONG YEARS AGO --



-- STILL HOLD THE  
MEMORY OF PASSION!

PLEASE, MY PRINCE,  
DON'T LET YOUR  
LOVE GROW COLD.

LIKE YOU, I  
ALMOST FEEL A  
TRAITOR...

... BUT DO NOT  
THINK OF  
AMETHYST NOW!

THINK  
ONLY  
OF ME!

FEAR NOT, MY DEAREST! WHAT  
I FELT FOR AMETHYST WAS MERE  
INFATUATION!

AND WHEN SHE LEFT  
THIS WORLD, I SAW AT  
LAST THAT MY TRUE  
LOVE...



... WAS  
YOU!

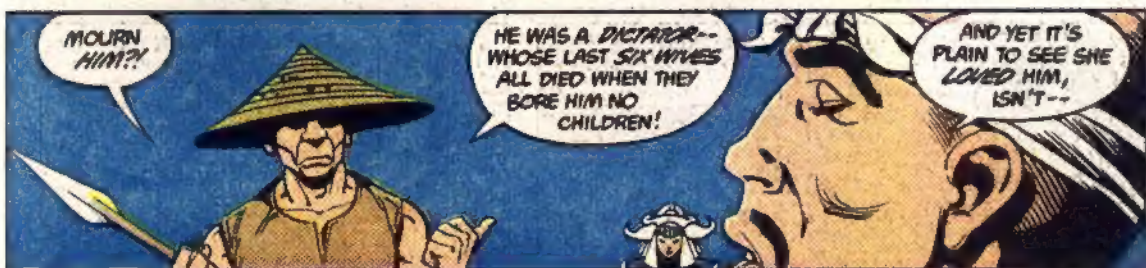


AND THOUGH  
OUR ROMANCE  
MAY BE BRIEF  
SWEET TURBULENCE,  
MY HEART WILL  
REMEMBER IT...



... LONG  
AFTER YOURS  
HAS BEEN MADE  
STILL FOREVER!













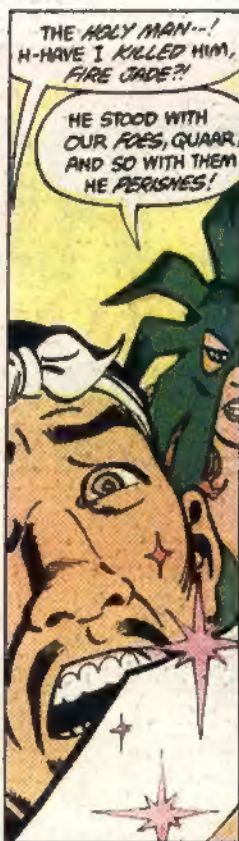
THAT CAN ONLY BE THE PRINCESS AMETHYST! IT'S SAID SHE SAVED THE WORLD!

BUT IF SHE ATTACKS US NOW BECAUSE WE SLEW THE TYRANT...

...THEN SHE TOO IS OUR ENEMY!



OMIGOSH! HIS SWORD TURNED BACK MY MAGIC BLAST AND-- DIAMOND!



THE HOLY MAN--! H-HAVE I KILLED HIM, FIRE JADE?!

HE STOOD WITH OUR FAES, GUAR, AND SO WITH THEM HE PERISHES!



THAT WOMAN--WHOM HE CALLED FIRE JADE-- MUST BE THE LEADER!



AND IT IS SHE WHO'LL FEEL THE BRUNT OF MY ELEMENTAL POWER!

AIEE! THE GIRL HAS MADE THE VERY GROUND SWELL UP AROUND ME--SEEKING TO ENTER MY MORTAL FORM!



BUT MINE IS POWER BEYOND MORTALITY... POWER REACHING PAST THE GRAVE...

...NOR IS PRINCESS EMERALD THE ONLY ONE TO WIELD THE FORCES OF NATURE!



AND NO EARTHEN CASE CAN LONG PREVAIL AGAINST THE RAGING FIRE THAT I CONTROL!



SHE'S BURNING  
UP, EMERALD!  
STOP IT!

HOW MANY PEOPLE  
HAVE TO DIE BEFORE  
THIS MADNESS ENDS?

THOSE FLAMES ARE NOT  
MY DOING, AMETHYST!

NOR IS THE  
MYSTERY WOMAN  
STILL AMID  
THEM!

"BUT SHE HAS LEFT HER MARK  
UPON THE PILLARS OF DIRT  
THAT DID INCARCERATE HER!"

THEY'RE BECOMING  
SOME KIND OF  
MONSTERS!

WE MUST BEWARE  
A FOE WHOSE MYSTERY  
OF THE ELEMENTS  
CAN OVERRIDE MY  
OWN...

AND FROM WHAT WE'VE DEALT  
WITH SO FAR, THERE'S NO TELLING  
HOW DANGEROUS THEY MIGHT BE!

YOUR WORDS  
ARE TRUER THAN  
YOU KNOW!

... AND WHO DISDAINS  
HER POWER WITH SUCH AN  
EVIL BENT OF MIND!

... SPENDING THE VERY DIRT  
THAT IT COMPRISES BACK  
AT PRINCESS EMERALD!

SHE HAS BARELY SPOKEN,  
WHEN A WALKING HULK  
OF FLAMING CLAY  
CONFRONTS HER JUDG-  
MENT...

UNSHUFF!



WHILE IN A HIDDEN LAIR  
NOT FAR AWAY...

I NEVER THOUGHT THE  
OTHER NOBLES WOULD  
RESPOND SO SOON! BUT  
I HAVE LONG PLANNED  
FOR THEIR DEATHS--  
AND WILL SEE THEM  
STILL--

--ALTHOUGH A  
PART OF ME YET  
WISHES ONE AMONG  
THEM COULD  
BE SAVED!--

AS FLAMES LIGHT  
UP THE BATTLE  
FOR PALACE  
ADJUTANTS...

... ON EARTH, SOME DARK  
RISERS KNOW THE SUN'S  
FIRST LIGHTS ARE NOT  
LONG OFF!

I'M SORRY  
THAT I HAD TO GET  
YOU UP AT THIS HOUR,  
SON--BUT WHEN ALBERT  
SAID HE COULDN'T OPEN  
THE GARDEN TODAY...

SAY, ISN'T THAT  
YOUR FRIEND  
AMY'S HOUSE  
WITH THE LIGHTS  
ON, JIM?

YEAH, DAD... I  
WONDER WHAT THEY'RE  
DOING UP NOW.

I'M GLAD THAT LUCAS HERE  
AND ALINT MARCH ARE  
FINALLY GETTING SOME SLEEP!

STAYING UP HALF THE NIGHT AND  
WORRYING ABOUT AMY ISN'T GOING  
TO HELP HER...

...ALTHOUGH WITH  
AMYSTIS'S SORRY OUTSIDE  
HER BODY--SHE MAY BE  
BEYOND ALL HELP  
POWER!



AND ON THE MYSTIC GEMWORLD...

I--I HAVE NEVER SEEN SUCH POWER AS THIS! THE CREATURE IS BURYING ME WITH DIRT--

--AND REPLENISHING ITS BODY JUST AS QUICKLY WITH THE GROUND BENEATH ITS FEET!

TOGETHER WE WILL SLAY THESE FOUR UNLIVING BRUTES!

PRINCESS, TAKE THIS SWORD! THE ONE THAT IT BELONGED TO HAS NO FURTHER USE FOR IT!

I HAVEN'T USED A SWORD MUCH LATELY, MOONSTONE!

HAA! LOOKS LIKE WITHOUT YOUR FLAME FACE--

--YOU'RE JUST ANOTHER PILE OF MUD!

...BUT WHEN LORD GARNET TRAINED ME, HE SAID I HAD MY REAL FATHER'S NATURAL SKILL--

--AND THAT ALL I'D EVER HAVE TO DO...

...IS JUST LET LOOSE!

I'LL LIVE! KAA! LORD MOONSTONE... BUT WHAT OF AMETHYST?

PRINCESS EMERALD, ARE YOU--?

IT WOULD APPEAR THAT SHE HAS MATTERS WELL IN HAND!









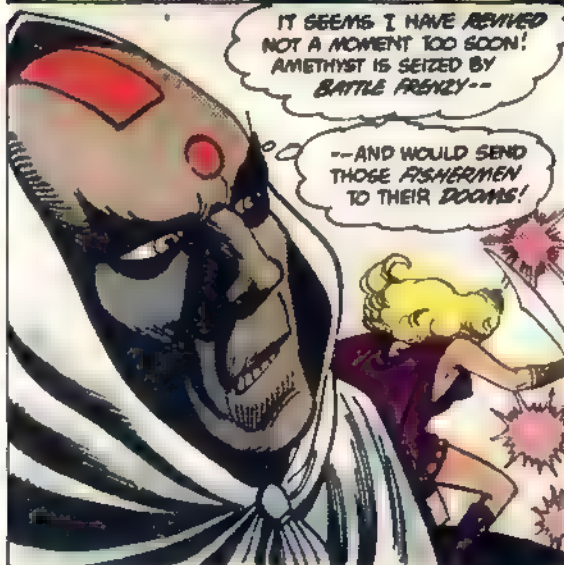
M-MY  
SWORD--!



SHE IS LIKE A DEMON!  
AND IF HER FLASHING BLADE  
DOES NOT KILL US--

--THE WALL OF  
FLAME BEHIND US  
SURELY WILL!

HAAN!



IT SEEMS I HAVE REVIVED  
NOT A MOMENT TOO SOON!  
AMETHYST IS SEIZED BY  
BATTLE FRENZY--

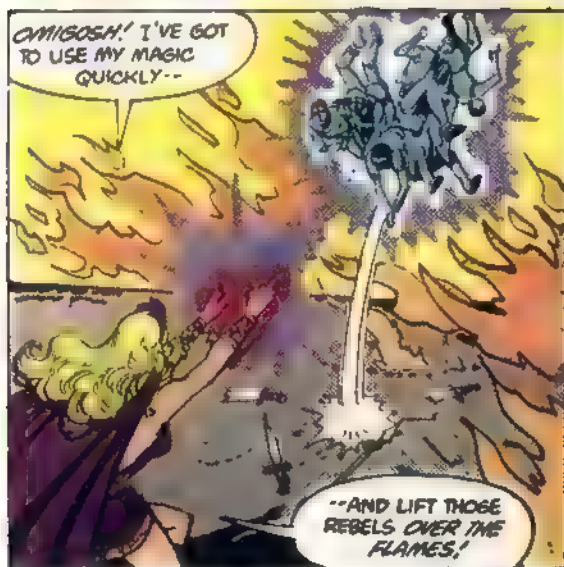
--AND WOULD SEND  
THOSE FISHERMEN  
TO THEIR DOOMS!



AMETHYST,  
PAY HEED!

CEASE YOUR  
ATTACK AT ONCE...  
LEST BLOOD BE ON YOUR  
HANDS FOREVER!

WHA--?  
DIAMOND?!



CYRIGOSH! I'VE GOT  
TO USE MY MAGIC  
QUICKLY--

--AND LIFT THOSE  
REBELS OVER THE  
FLAMES!

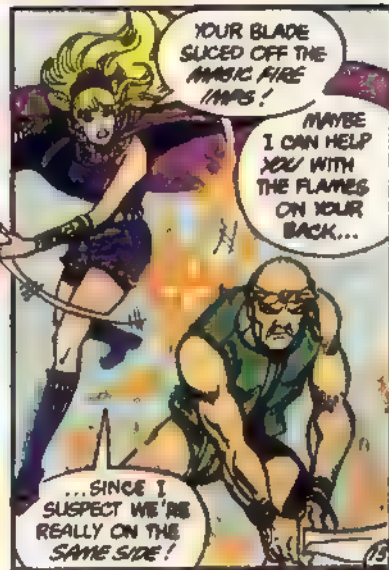
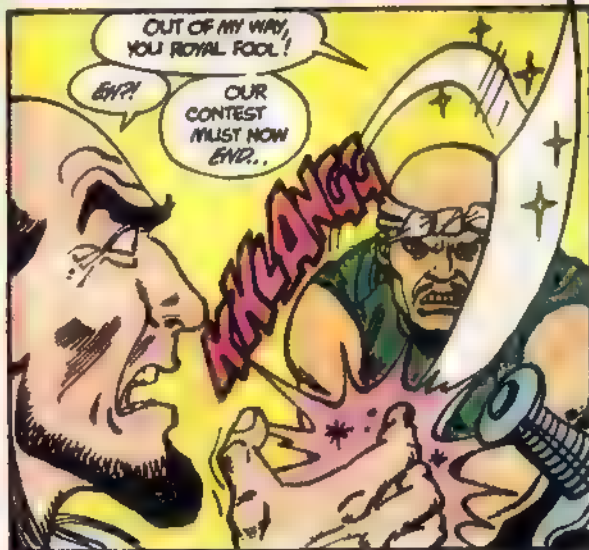
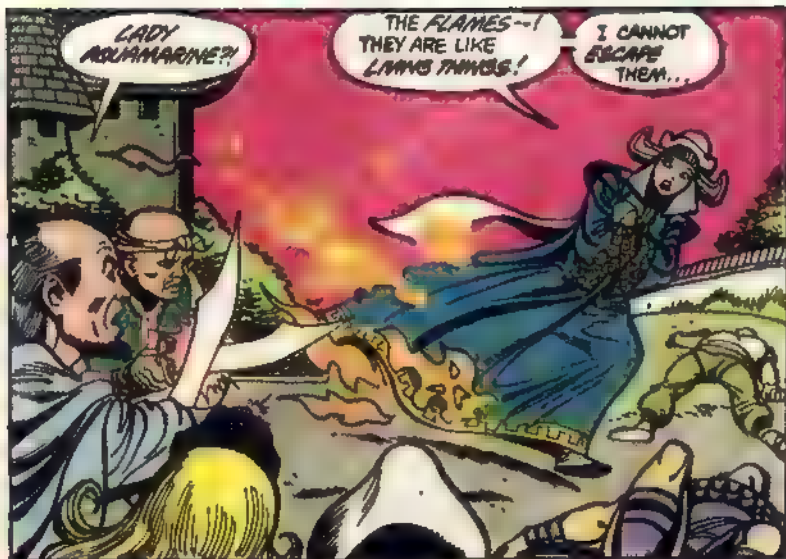


I AM  
RELIEVED  
YOUR SENSES  
HAVE RETURNED,  
PRINCESS!

YES, BUT-- BUT  
WHAT IF YOU HADN'T  
CALLED OUT IN  
TIME?

WHAT  
CAME OVER  
ME!?







BUT BEFORE ANYTHING'S SUBARCON  
CAN BE PUT TO THE TEST...

# KRAK-AH BOOM

IS THAT FIRE  
JADE'S DOING?

SO I WOULD  
SURMISE!

BUT I MAY HAVE  
REALIZED TOO LATE  
THAT HER GOALS ARE  
NOT MINE!

THE GROUND DOES  
HEAVE AND SHATTER  
BENEATH US...

...AS THOUGH THE SOLID  
FOOTING IT ONCE GAVE WAS  
JUST ILLUSION!

LOOK OUT,  
EVERYBODY!  
THAT CANAL'S  
SHOOTING UP  
LIKE A  
GEYSER!

THIS NEVER  
STOPS! IT'S  
LIKE A BAD  
DREAM  
THAT I CAN'T  
WAKE UP  
FROM!

NOW WHAT'S  
HAPPENING...?  
SOMETHING  
BEGINS INSIDE  
THE MOLTEN  
MASS! IT'S...

FIRE JADE  
IS THE NAME  
THIS WORLD  
SHALL KNOW  
ME BY...

...FIRE JADE  
THE ONE THEY  
WILL BESEECH  
FOR MERCY...

--AS THE LIVING GEMWORLD  
BURNS INTO A CINDER...  
AND DIES!



BUT FOR A BREEZE THAT STIRS A CLOUD  
OR WHITE FOAM ON THE WATER, ALL IS  
STILL ALONG THE TROPIC COAST...

YET FIRE JADE'S HOT TOUCH  
IS FELT HERE ALSO...

... IN ONE MAN'S  
REVERED SOUL!

I COULD LOVE YOU,  
LADY TURQUOISE.

YOURS IS A BEAUTY--  
AND FIERCE SPIRIT--  
UNLIKE ANY OTHER'S!  
AND I WOULD MAKE  
YOU MINE...

... IF FIRE JADE HAD  
NOT REVEALED TO ME THE  
TREACHERY IN YOUR  
HEART...

... AND COMMANDED  
THAT I KILL ALL THOSE  
WHO HAVE BETRAYED  
ME!

OH--! MY PRINCE,  
YOU STARTLED ME!

WHAT IS IT THAT  
YOU WANT?

AS ALWAYS, SWEET LADY,  
YOU ARE MY ONE DESIRE!

NOW CLOSE  
YOUR EYES  
AGAIN...

... THAT  
I MIGHT  
HAVE  
YOU!





WHILE HALF AN OCEAN AWAY...

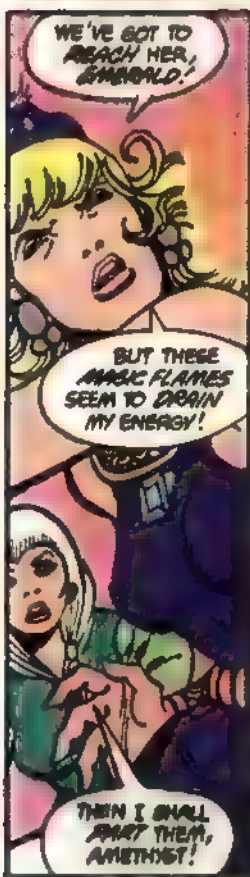
NOT ALL THE SCORCHY  
THAT SUSTAINS THE  
GEMMELD WILL PRESERVE  
YOU NOW!

FOR THAT MAGIC IS  
UNFOLDING BY THE DEATHS  
OF QIAN AND AQUAMARINE...

... BY THE  
FAILURE OF THE  
PRINCESS EMERALD  
TO ASSUME HER  
ROLE AS LADY!

THEN IT WAS  
YOU WHO  
INTERRUPTED MY  
INVESTIGATE!

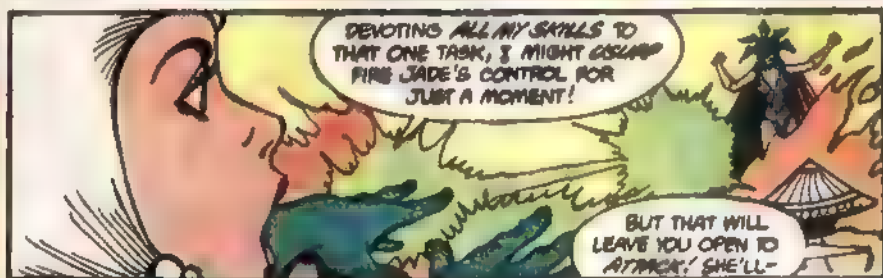
IN THE AMETHYST  
ANIMAL -- NO.



WE'VE GOT TO  
REACH HER,  
GEMMELD!

BUT THESE  
MAGIC FLAMES  
SEEM TO DRAIN  
MY ENERGY!

THEN I SHALL  
PART THEM,  
AMETHYST!



DEVOTING ALL MY SKILLS TO  
THAT ONE TASK, I MIGHT OBTAIN  
FIRE JADE'S CONTROL FOR  
JUST A MOMENT!

BUT THAT WILL  
LEAVE YOU OPEN TO  
ATTACK! SHE'LL-



NOISE!

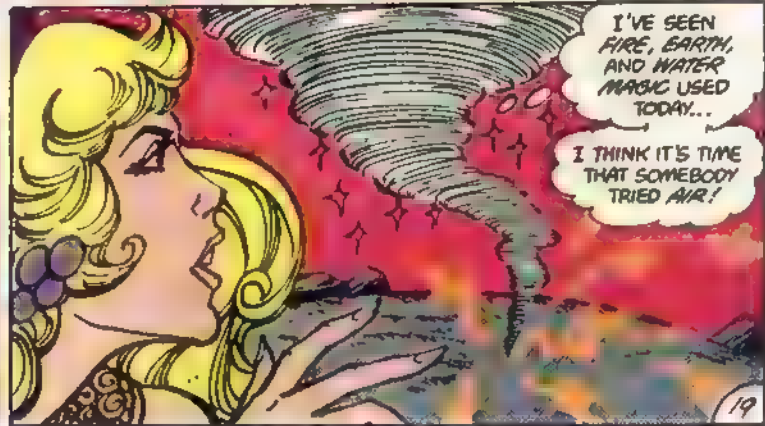
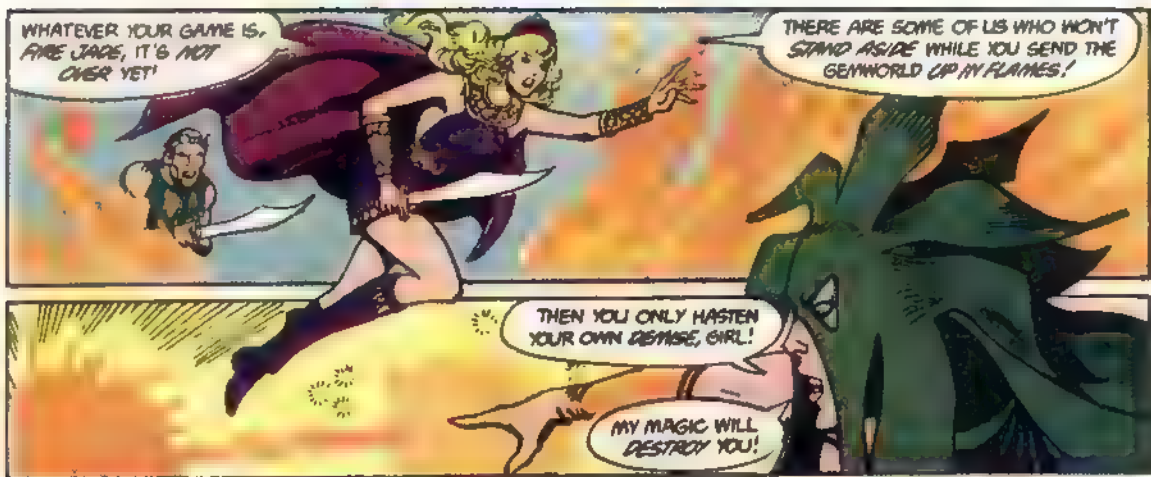
GEMMELD!



SHE COULD HAVE SLAIN ME  
WITH THAT BLAST.. BUT SHE  
DID NOT! WHY..?

HURRY UP, GEMMELD~  
BEFORE THE BREACH  
IN THE WALL'S COMPLETELY  
CLOSED AGAIN!









IT'S WORKING! MY WHIRLWIND'S SWALLOWING UP THE FIRE IMPS!...

... BUT THEY'RE STILL STRUGGLING TO BREAK OUT!



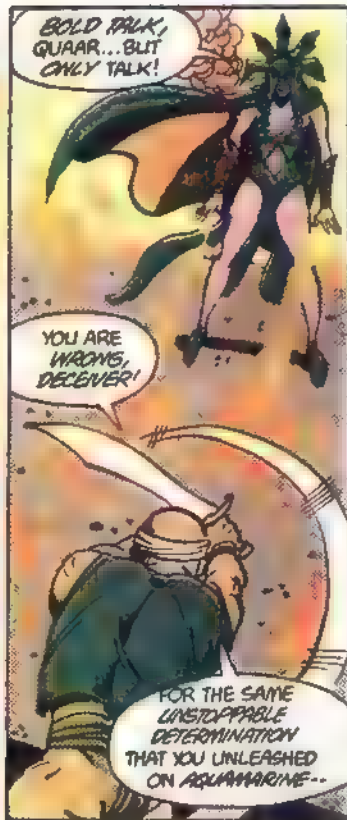
I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH LONGER I CAN CONTROL THEM!

QUARR!



YOU'VE GIVEN US A FIGHTING CHANCE NOW, PRINCESS AMETHYST--

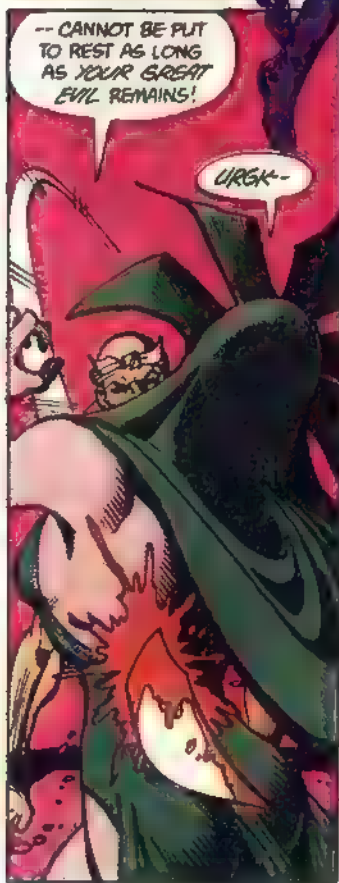
--AND I'LL MAKE SURE IT'S NOT IN VAIN!



BOLD TALK, QUARR... BUT ONLY TALK!

YOU ARE WRONG, DECEIVER!

FOR THE SAME UNSTOPPABLE DETERMINATION THAT YOU UNLEASHED ON AQUAMARINE--

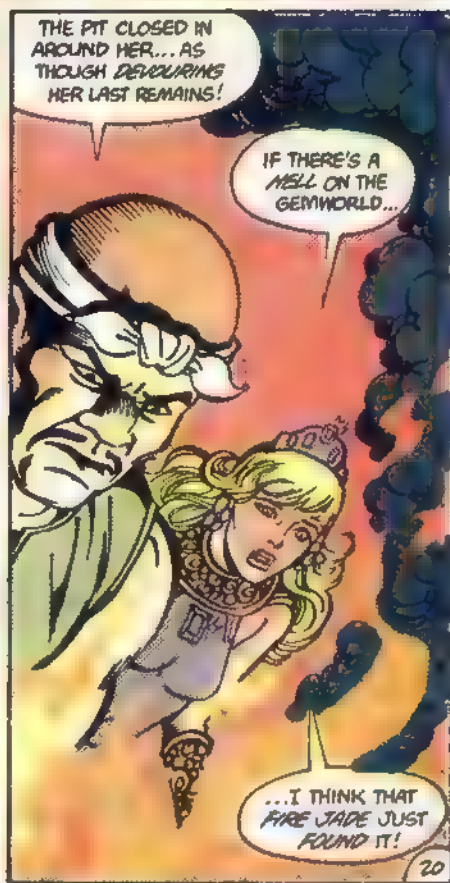


-- CANNOT BE PUT TO REST AS LONG AS YOUR GREAT EVIL REMAINS!

URSK--



AND YOUR DEATH SHALL MAKE US FREE!

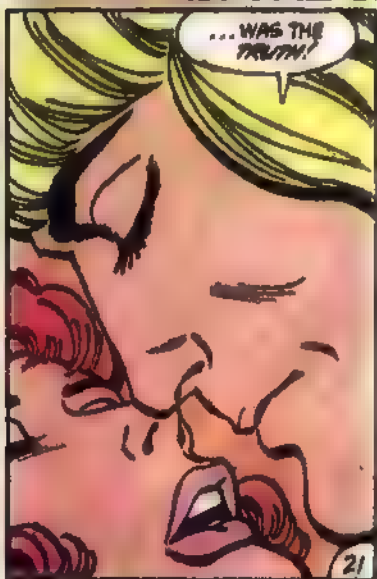
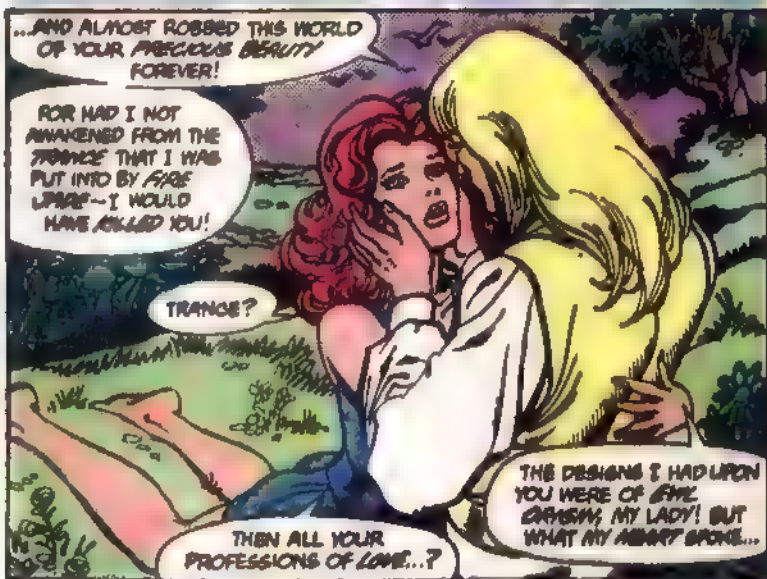
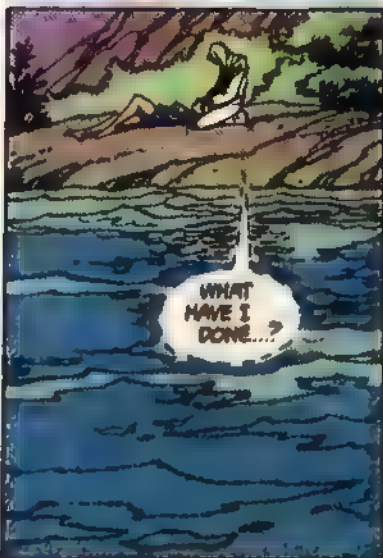
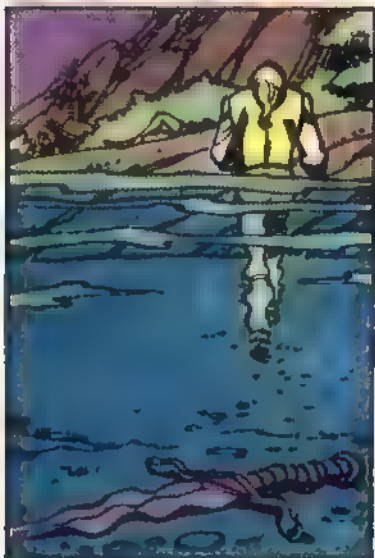
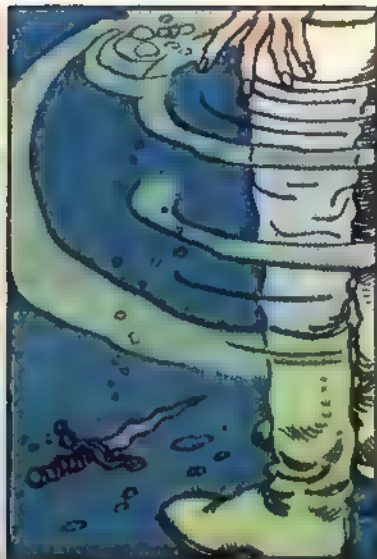


THE PIT CLOSED IN AROUND HER... AS THOUGH DEVOURING HER LAST REMAINS!

IF THERE'S A HELL ON THE GEMWORLD...

...I THINK THAT FIRE JADE JUST FOUND IT!







THE DYING LET THEIR LIVES PASS  
WITH A MOAN... AND FROM THOSE  
STRUCK WITH GRIEF A WHISPERS ARISES

...WHILE STILL OTHERS STAND LOST  
IN A SILENCE THAT THEY SHARE  
WITH THE DEAD!

THEN...

I WONDER IF  
WE'LL EVER KNOW  
JUST WHAT FIRE JADE  
WAS ABOUT! SHE  
SEEMED ONLY TO  
WANT OUR COMPLETE  
DESTRUCTION.

BUT WHAT  
WAS THERE TO GAIN  
FROM THAT?

ANYWAY, I GUESS THAT YOU'LL BE  
IN CHARGE OF THINGS AROUND HERE  
NOW, LADY AQUAMARINE!

NO! I DID NOT SLAY  
THE SEA LORD SO  
THAT HIS PLACE  
MIGHT BE TAKEN BY ANOTHER  
UNCARING MEMBER OF HIS  
ROYAL FAMILY!

HUH? BUT  
GLAMIR...

...I THOUGHT  
THAT YOU AND  
YOUR REBELS  
WERE BEING  
USED BY  
FIRE JADE!

PRIMES WE MAY HAVE  
BEEN, ANTIHIST--  
BUT OUR GROEVANCES  
AGAINST LORD  
AQUAMARINE WERE  
ONLY TOO REAL!

HIS GOAL WAS TO  
TAKE DARK OPAL'S  
ROLE AS MASTER  
OF THE WORLD!

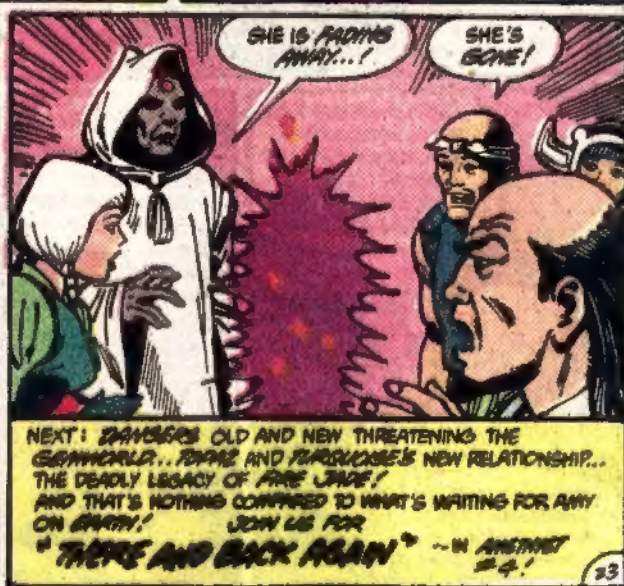
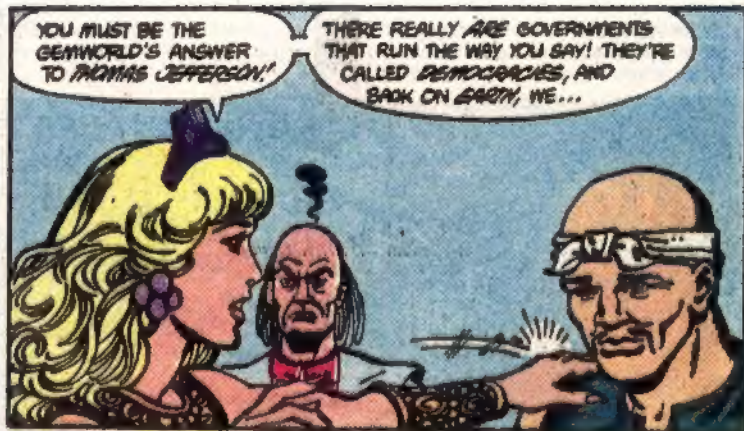
IS THAT TRUE,  
LADY?

WAS HE JUST  
ANOTHER POWER  
HUNGRY DESERT?

AS WITH THE DEAD--

--THE  
SILENCE OF LADY  
AQUAMARINE  
SPEAKS MORE ELOQUENTLY  
THAN ANY WORDS...







# Purple Prose



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Hi, everyone, and welcome to another issue of **AMETHYST, PRINCESS OF GEMWORLD**. As I sit writing this on a warm September evening, it's still a few weeks too shy for us to have received any mail on issue #1. We do, however, have an abundance of letters commenting on the conclusion of the maxi-series and the annual. So without further ado, here they are! Karen

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Purple Prose,

**AMETHYST** is my favorite comic, and I'm glad it will continue. I hope you expand on and maybe add:

- 1) Amethyst and Amy's rather "odd" relationship with each other.
- 2) The names and powers of Amethyst's winged unicorn and Citrine's dragon.
- 3) Sardonix and his feelings about his new allies (if they remain that way), as well as his background.
- 4) The possible return of Dark Opal, as hinted at in the final panel.
- 5) Amy's parents' feelings about her role in the Gemworld, and possibly those of her friends and teachers.
- 6) How about having Amethyst join forces with some other super-heroes, like the Justice League or Batman?

Very Sincerely,

Kirby C. Holt  
8126 E. Cypress St.  
Scottsdale, AZ 85257

We already have so many story lines and sub-plots brewing for the first year of the book with the introduction of new Gemworld and Earth characters, Kirby, that an Amethyst team-up with other DC super-heroes in the near future isn't likely. But we definitely have considered the possibility of it.

As for your other comments, it's interesting enough that we are in fact concentrating on three of your suggestions in the first half a dozen issues of the book. As to which three, well ... I'll leave that up to you people to figure out.

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Purple People:

Hooray for you! I have just finished reading **AMETHYST** #12. It was as fantastic as ever, and the best part about it, the letter column said that the Purple Princess will soon be returning on a regular monthly basis. That is some of

the best news I have heard in quite a while.

As a comic collector of long standing (try 20 years), I have plenty of old favorites. All are DC, of course, my favorite being **THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES**. I bought the first issue of **AMETHYST** simply because it was a first issue. I did not really care for the preview in the **LEGION** comic. Boy, I was really surprised. As the months rolled by, too quickly, this has become one of my favorites. I go into the comic shop asking for the **LEGION** and **AMETHYST**. If the others are in, that's fine. I'll get them, but I go in search of the two main ones.

I just want to commend you on a job very well done and wish you the best of success in the future.

Thanks for all the memories and future ones in advance.

Beth Callaway  
Rt. 1 Box 525  
Pine Mountain, GA 31822

Since I also edit the **LEGION**, Beth, I must say you have great taste in picking your favorite comics!

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Dear Karen,

I must really congratulate you on how well the **AMETHYST** maxi-series turned out. When I read my first **AMETHYST** comic, #7, I figured it would be another sissy girl hero comic. I picked it up because they were out of **X-MEN** and I was going on a long trip and needed something to read. I was really surprised! I had trouble figuring out some of it at the beginning. It's hard to jump into a series in the middle. After that I still had lots of trouble finding Amethyst comics anywhere. I was surprised to find lots of boys liked it too. Don't get me wrong, I'm not boy crazy, but ever since I saw Prince Topaz, I've become more attached to my birthstone (topaz). In issue #12, a reader suggested you name the unicorn Amethyst rides on. I truly agree. I think Silver Mane would be nice.

I really must congratulate you again for your superb work on **AMETHYST**. Thanks for making it a continuing series and keep up the great work!

Forever loyal to Amethyst,

Daria Kaye Stockton  
23614 E. 79th  
Broken Arrow, OK 74014

The best way to make sure you receive every issue of **AMETHYST**, Daria, is to contact our subscription department. All you need to know is printed at the bottom of the first page; the second line of fine print, to be exact.

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Dear Dan, Gary, and Karen,

The **AMETHYST** Annual was magnificent! The dwarfs were great! They were really cute, and I loved the way they talked. I hope to be seeing more of them (a lot more).

What you did with the Land of Opal was amazing. It's absolutely beautiful now! The dragon-worm and the cat were neat, and the mysterious lady was great. When are we going to find out who she is? I liked how you brought Rita into all of this, too. Speaking of Rita, I noticed that on page 38, the cat thing screamed. Rita's pendant broke, but on page 39 in the sixth panel, she was wearing it again! What happened? I hope to see a lot more of her.

By the way, we have Americans and Canadians, what are the people of the Gemworld called?

Sincerely,

Susan Hauschild  
2313 Blue Heron  
Florissant, MO 63031

Many of you who wrote in asked why Rita was wearing her pendant again after it broke. If you look on page 36, you'll notice Rita eyeing a strange-looking gemstone on the ground. I'm not going to say anything else about it, for the sake of not divulging important information, but trust me ... that incident is not forgotten, especially when Carnelian finds out!

As for your other question, I'd guess "Gemworlder" is as close as anything we've ever used, but we usually end up saying Gemworld people. It's longer, but sounds better.

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Dear Amethyst Creators,

This is my first letter to your mag. I have little but praise for it. What caught my eye first on every issue were the unexpectedly jewel-like colors, both the covers and interior artwork. Such deep, brilliant shades I didn't think could be produced in the comic book medium. Since the book depends heavily on colors (Gemworld brings to mind a



rainbow) it is a success in that respect. Next, your wonderful imagination in creating such diverse personalities and traditions for the rulers and royal houses of the Gemworld is to be applauded! Rarely have I seen realistic people in comics like these. Sardonyx—a sleazy bottler-type. Carnelian—interesting to see how he reacts as a powerless son around these magically endowed Gemworldites. Lady Topaz—hope she gets hers but good! The fate of Lady Emerald, of the House of Emerald, was a tragic one. Perhaps her daughters will avenge her. The Emissaries of Vorn—very spooky, perhaps their power could rival that of Opal's? My favorite is Lady Turquoise. Her get-out-of-my-way-now cuteness is a great support to Amethyst's caution. In closing, may I say that I truly love the artwork, the colors, the story—well, everything, especially the humor. Did the idea for the breastplate of the 12 gems come from the Biblical story of the plate containing symbolic stones of the twelve tribes of Israel? Happy to read AMETHYST is now a monthly series!

Ron Smith  
Denton, TX 76201

*Dan says the idea of Dark Opal's breastplate must have been in part unconsciously influenced by the Biblical reference. Ron, in his and Gary's comprehensive gemlore research, they did come across the story, but no conscious use of the concept was made.*

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Dear Karen,

I've just finished reading AMETHYST #12, "Darkness Falls," and I would like to take the time to congratulate and thank you for creating this wonderful series.

Dan Mishkin and Gary Cohn have written a wonderful fantasy saga, and when added to Ernie Colón's beautiful art, the book is unbeatable. They always do wonderful work.

The reason I like this book is it lets you take a break from the pressures of the world, and throws you into a fantasy realm, where you can sit back and share the joys, triumphs, and heartaches of Amethyst as she struggles to defeat Dark Opal. One letter cannot begin to describe the pleasure you have brought to this reader.

Again, thanks to you all who brought this book to life. I can't wait until the monthly book comes out!

Sincerely,

Sam Hayden Jr.  
9570 SW 80th Ave.  
Portland, OR 97223

*Thanks so much for your sincere, thoughtful comments, Sam. I hope you're enjoying Ric Estrada's version of AMETHYST as well. As I may have mentioned before, even though I knew Ric was the perfect person to follow Ernie on the book, it was still quite*

*unsettling, if not downright eerie, when I first saw his pencils on the annual. The stylistic similarity between those two was, and still is, amazing!*

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Dear People,

I just finished reading AMETHYST #12. I tried to think of what to say to the creators of a series which brought so much happiness into my life, these past twelve months. AMETHYST has touched my life in a way no other comic has done. If the upcoming series is able to do half as much, it will be a success. Either way, fame or failure, I will be there to congratulate or console you. There can be only one thing to say to the people behind AMETHYST, and that's thank you.

Tony Kiriluk  
3310 Alcorn Rd.  
Fallon, NV 89406

*Thanks for sharing your feelings with us, Tony. Nothing makes us feel better than to know that we were able to touch a person in a special way.*

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Dear DC,

Let me first congratulate you for introducing AMETHYST! I have gotten "hooked" on this comic book. I'm eighteen years of age and entering college, have a husband, and I would not have any time to read some super-hero comic book. I happened to have come by one of my six-year-old cousin's comic books, issue #5, and it read AMETHYST. I started reading it and got curious. Fortunately, I live near a comic book store, only a block away. So, what I did was go to this store and took out all twelve issues of AMETHYST. I loved it all. My hopes were Amethyst and Topaz getting married, but I suppose the other part of her in the world "Earth" doesn't agree. For some silly reason I liked Carnelian. I guess because he is so conceited and is powerless in the Gemworld. He is also drawn up like a rogue, and not such a bad looking. The other characters I like are: Lady Turquoise, and those three faceless men of Yarn. Turquoise has got spirit, lots of it, along with beauty that she carries well. Speaking of the Yarn men, what happened to them? I can't wait to receive the AMETHYST monthly. I don't read any other comic book than hers. Oh, yeah, one other thing I'd like to mention. On issues one to four Amethyst looks much older. Does she wear real short, short-shorts or are they bikinis? Well, in the beginning of #5 she wears mini-skirts. Why'd you change the outfit? She looks great in the first issues, like the twenty-year-old she's supposed to be. Oh, well, she still looks great. Keep up the great work!

With sincerity,

Mrs. Waddell  
4660 Boundary St.  
San Diego, CA 92116

*We added the skirt to Amethyst's costume because we felt her shorts were rather ordinary-looking when compared to the ornate wear of the other royalty. We've also developed great-looking fantasy wear for our purple princess, and she'll be wearing one of those outfits on a soon-to-be-released exquisite cover.*

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Dear Dan, Gary, Ernie, John, Tom, and (of course) Karen,

Greetings and salutations! As so many others have said, I never thought I'd ever be moved enough by any comic or magazine to write and give my impressions on same. But, I have been reading the Purple Prose of AMETHYST and was inspired enough to write.

I am a U.S. Marine stationed off Beirut on one of the aircraft carriers there. I started reading AMETHYST when it first came out because I was curious about the story line, although I didn't expect much. Instead I blundered into a world populated by noble, honest people striving to save the world they appreciate and love from the forces of evil; a place where magic and fantasy go hand in hand. I fell in love with the Gemworld, the people, and especially Princess Amethyst. She is much like a lady that I loved in college, including the long blonde hair, and the magic surrounding her.

You do a wonderful job on this story, and I try to get each issue any way I can. After a day of hard work (plenty of that in the military!) I read and reread those issues I do have and hope against hope that I can get the next one. Let me say in closing that you help brighten at least one Marine's day every month. My sincere thanks to you all.

Semper Fidelis,  
Respectfully,

Lance Corporal Jon-Scott E. Mens  
US MC

*I must say that this is Amethyst's first letter from a member of the military. Jon-Scott. Thanks so much for taking the time to let us know how much the book means to you.*

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*NEXT MONTH: Amy faces deadly danger from the boy next door when she learns the truth about Carl and his Uncle Orville! And on the Gemworld ... Sardonyx has no choice but to ally with a strange being whose mission is far from pretty! See you then—Karen*





# GUEST

## MEANWHILE

Dear Mr. Giordano,

Here's two attempts to get printed. Look at it this way: it's better than another one of my annoying letters to you. Anyway, I love to make speeches and I need the money. Okay, let's go. (Sound of throat clearing)

Dear Whoever-Reads-These-Things,

I'd like to speak to you about a subject that has been ignored for years, an American tragedy, a shameful blot on the comics industry.

I'd like to discuss heroine abuse and neglect.

Women in comics are treated terribly by both DC and Marvel, mostly by Marvel, but Jim Shooter doesn't do guest columns. They are downplayed, put-upon, wasted, ignored, and stereotyped into six categories. I like to call these categories the Six De's.

The first De is Dependence. The heroine is somehow linked to a hero, either by costume (like Batgirl), by relation (like Huntress), by romance (like Black Canary), or by joining a team (like Wonder Girl). Thus, the heroine has a bloody hard time standing alone and independent. Eventually, she becomes either a sidekick ("Green Arrow's Girlfriend, The Black Canary") or a bookend (Hawkmaw and Hawkwoman).

The next De is Deemphasis.

Everyone ignores the heroine and hopes she'll go away. DC has an enormous wealth of interesting, exciting, and enjoyable heroines, most of whom haven't appeared in years.

Demoralize often goes under the guise of "characterization." The heroine is given a quirk in her personality or a mental aberration that cripples her. A good example is The

Thorn's split personality, which makes it impossible for her to fight in the daytime. The most common personality modes are The Bubblehead ("Oh, dear, this fight to the death with Vrot the Remarkably Unpleasant will simply ruin my manicure"), the Battlehappy Battler ("I will tear Vrot the Remarkably Unpleasant into little pieces!"), and the Weak and Helpless Type ("I would fight Vrot the Remarkably Unpleasant, but I'm so afraid of snakes and I'm a pacifist anyway").

Deglamorize is ridiculous but effective. The heroine is given an ugly costume, which effectively weakens her popularity without too badly weakening her ability in combat. I'm sure we're all familiar with the beautiful weather-goddess who was phenomenally popular and was just about to branch out into solo guest appearances and maybe even her own mini-series until the writer suddenly decided to have her go punk, complete with mohawk. This set her upon the road to ruin as she progressed to the next stage...

...Depower! Of course, the aforementioned character was exposed to the fullest and most literal example of Depowering. She was stripped of her superhuman qualities and rendered utterly normal ... a fate worse than death. There is a more subtle form of Depowering, where the heroine's talents are downplayed and presented as trivial. That way, she needs a hero around to keep her from getting killed. Thus, deadly destructibles become stun-stings, extrasensory perception becomes "I sense an evil presence somewhere in

this room," and even telepathic mind-control becomes a parlor trick.

The most drastic step is Death. It means exactly what you think it means. The heroine is quickly and not-very-neatly disposed of. Ever since Phoenix left this mortal coil, hundreds of heroines are sacrificed daily in a vain attempt to produce a classic comparable to her story. The only one that even comes close is "The Judas Contract," which featured the death of Terra—a death that, let's face it, we knew was going to happen. Too many heroines have been sacrificed to the great volcano god Fan-Dom. It's about time the writers found a new cliché to overuse.

Now, I'm not suggesting that the comics creators are engaging in a sinister conspiracy. It's doubtful that Mr. Giordano has even realized the problem. But it is sincerely wished that someone would realize what's going on and take steps to correct the problem. Why is it that when a character must go insane, sacrifice her life to save humanity, or get blasted by the neural-vac power-remover, it's always a woman?

I represent W.A.S.P., the Women Anti-Stereotyping Patrol. We have been attempting to correct this injustice (by the way, if any W.A.S.P.ers are reading this ... for Heaven's sakes, write! I'm good, but I can't do it all alone!), but we require some help. If a favorite heroine of yours has been suffering from one of the six symptoms, write to the comic of your choice (don't bother Mr. Giordano ... that's my job) and complain, politely but firmly. If any submitters are reading this, consider revamping an old heroine or creating a new one as your project. It might be fun. I know I had fun when I did it (I didn't have fun when DC rejected it, but that's not important). And if any professional comics writers are reading this ... for gosh sakes, lay off the heroines, will ya?

I thank you for your time. Now let's see if I can get this thing printed.

Michael Pickens  
Greentree Apartments  
784 Blacksnake Rd.  
D-4

Utica, OH 43080

I hope this doesn't fall under "defamatory." I tried to present the facts as I see them and to give DC a fair shake. If you decide to print it, I believe you'll have room for a rebuttal.

DC  
ON SALE WEEK  
CHECK  
OF DECEMBER 13  
LIST

Batman 381: The final fates of Mayor Hill, Nocturna, Slayer of Night, and Jason!

The Flash 343: Flash finds himself teamed with—Big Sir!

G.I. Combat 275: The Haunted Tank on a new top-secret mission!

Superman 405: Two more thrilling tales with the Man of Steel!

Arak 42: Arak, Valda, and Satyrus fight for their lives on a deadly island!

Amethyst 3: While Amethyst fights

Fire Jade, Topaz romances Turquoise! Tales of the Teen Titans 52: Cheshire fights the Titans to kill Jaricho's mother!

Jemm, Son of Saturn 7: Will Bouncer's decision lead to his death?

Star Trek 12: Spock mindmelds with Spock while the battle heats up!

Omega Men 24: Marvel Wolfman and Kevin O'Neill present a special tale!

The Immortal Dr. Fate 3: Dr. Fate versus the gods of Chaos!